

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:38
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Setting up of Irradiation Centres
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent agrarian crisis in Madhya Pradesh where farmers had to sell their perishable produce at throwaway prices due to bumper crops has prompted the Government to sensitise the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to set up irradiation centres in the State and elsewhere to prolong the shelf life of perishable produce and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether unlike chemical fumigants, irradiation does not leave any harmful toxic residue in the produce and is more effective in the processing of farm produce and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Lasalgaon Onion processing facility using BARC irradiation technology has been serving the interest of farmers of the region for the last few years and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) to (c): A statement is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *38 FOR ANSWER ON 18.07.2017 REGARDING SETTING UP OF IRRADIATION CENTRES.

(a): Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT), one of the Industrial Unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) normally assist by providing Co-60 source and offering dosimetry services to interested private entrepreneurs, semi government and government organisations who approaches to set up radiation processing plant.

So far no agency from Madhya Pradesh has approached with a plan to set up radiation processing plant to prolong shelf life of perishable products.

Earlier following companies, which are based in Madhya Pradesh, have signed MOU with BRIT for setting up of Gamma Radiation Processing Plant:-

1. M/s Raghuvansh Agrofarms Ltd, Indore
2. M/s Avantee Mega Food Park Pvt.Ltd, Indore

(b): Irradiation does not leave any harmful toxic residue in the produce and its effectiveness is well proven and also there is no effect on taste and texture of the produce by using this process.

As per Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012, eight classes of products are approved for radiation processing, in which farm produce are also included.

(c): Lasalgaon Onion Processing Facility (KRUSHAK) has been serving the interests of farmers as and when required by them. Facility is operational throughout the year.

Details of various products irradiated since 2015 is given below:

Product Quantity of radiation processed product (Tons)

2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 (till June)

Onion 115.25 361.8 --

Garlic 15.81 -- --

Dehydrated Onion Powder 51.8 640.2 26

Mangoes 329 567 544.5

Pomegranate -- -- 5.99

Ayurvedic raw materials 166.6 364.19 50.6